

LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

TOWN NEWSLETTER

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CALENDAR

March 25th: Mardi

Gras - Bullis Charter School Annual Dinner Auction; Info: Call: 941-4708 and www.bullischarterschool.com

April 23, 2006,

Sunday 1-4 PM, Earth Day at Westwind Barn, Leopards Etc. Wild Cats;

& Karen Hoyt of Sky Hunters will be bringing two birds of prey - including an owl and a kestrel.

April 30th: 'Pirates of Penzance', co-production by S.F. Opera Guild and BCS, 2 and 4 pm, Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College, LAH. Info: 948-4100 and www.bullischarterschool.com

May 6th, Saturday Westwind Barn; 9 AM 5th Annual LAH Pathways Run. Info: 650-941-7222.

May 17-21: BCS plays: 'Aladdin', grades K-4; June 1-11th "For whom the Bell Rings", grades 5-6. Info: 941-7973 and www.bullischarterschool.com

June 4; Sunday, LAH Town Picnic; Little League Fields, 1-4 PM. See Article Page 4.

WESTWIND BARN STATUS

Situated deep in the heart of Los Altos Hills adjacent to some of our most beautiful open spaces is a real crown jewel of our community. As you proceed northward along Altamont Road, you pass some of the most beautiful scenery in Town, with the Byrne Preserve to your left and Bay views on the right. Often, you can see horses graze on the Preserve as the fog lingers in the morning. Just past the Preserve is our Town-owned Westwind Barn.

Westwind Barn and the adjoining property have been owned by Los Altos Hills since 1975. This property came into public ownership as the result of a generous gift from Countess Margit Besseney of Hamilton, Montana and a companion purchase by the Town. One and one-half years after acquiring the property, the Town leased the facilities to a private organization, Friends of Westwind. The Friends have managed the facility every since. Recently, a second organization, Supporters of Westwind, was created, primarily as a group dedicated to raising money for the renovation of the Barn. Among other things, Supporters of Westwind sponsors the popular annual Derby Day event and celebration.



Keeping in mind the importance of this community asset, the Los Altos Hills City Council has taken on the issue of planning the future of Westwind Barn. The council's desire is to secure future availability of the barn to all residents of our community. In addition to preservation and restoration, the Council is also committed to enabling more Parks and Recreation programs and events at the barn.

The Council has hired a consultant to inspect the facility and report back on its structural integrity and to give preliminary estimates of the cost of renovation. Concurrent with this review, the Council has created two Ad Hoc Committees to provide advice to the Council. The first is a committee addressing governance of the barn. This committee is charged with providing advice as to the proposed legal structure of Barn governance, including developing a strategy to access park bond funds, other Town funds and/or private donations. This committee is expected to report its final recommendations by March. The second committee will then begin its work. It is charged with planning the renovation of the Barn and the expanded uses of the Barn. The Town ordered consultant report on the Barn's condition will be an important input into the committee's deliberations.

The Council got actively involved because of the increased community interest in the Barn, greater demand for recreational equestrian activities by our residents and in response to the pressing need to renovate the Barn. The goal is to ensure that this valuable Town asset continues to be available to the increasing number of Town residents who want to participate in the many activities at the barn.

CITY MANAGER - Recent Resignation

The Town has launched a search for the position of City Manager after the resignation of former manager Maureen Cassingham. The Council thanks Ms. Cassingham for her five years of service to our Town. An ad hoc subcommittee of the Council has been created and it is expected the Council will hire a search firm specializing in City Manager searches. On average, it takes approximately 4-6 months to complete a City Manager search. Carl Cahill has accepted the position of Acting City Manager in the interim. The City Council is seeking input from Town residents as to the characteristics we should seek in our next City Manager.